9:Lebanon G-5 (1952)1953 MEI Lebanon MEI

226 Fishing is important as a means of livelihood only at Sarafand. The village proper lies a couple of miles inland but a suburb has grown along the coast where a fishing community exists. The industry, primitive and using only row boats, employs some 200 persons on a part or full-time basis. The gross take is estimated at LL. 80,000 ($22,000) annually. These fishermen often own small plots of farm land, which accounts for many of the 300 small farms reported for Sarafand.

382 464 The Trans-Arabian Pipe Line (Tapline) has its Mediterranean terminus at Saida which lies just north of the area under discussion. About 600 Lebanese workmen are employed by the company, some of them coming from the villages under study. No statistical data are available on this question but it does not appear that employment by Tapline affects the five villages to any great extent.

It is reported that some of the member companies of Tapline are planning to erect an oil refinery near their present operations. During construction employment opportunities for local unskilled labor will probably occur. When the plant is in operation, two or three hundred men will be required, hence continuing employment opportunities will be available. It may be that small industries will be established to use some of the products of the refinery. This would offer an opportunity for limited industrial development. Such diversification is very desirable for this otherwise agricultural community.

Domestic Water, Sanitation and Health

000 Technical details concerning pollution of wells, types of diseases prevalent in the project villages, and similar data will not be found in this report. This aspect of the problem falls within the jurisdiction of the specialized and highly trained public health technicians attached to the Technical Cooperation Service, Lebanon.

312 An ample and safe supply of drinking water is not available for any of the five villages included in the improvement project. En-Nasriyah depends upon a covered shallow well for its domestic water supply, the other villages have access to springs. In most cases these sources are adequate as to quantity except during the summer months. In all cases the purity is questionable. Village

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441 were too small to be thought of in this category. They represent almost six percent of the sample.

Personal services

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445 The category "personal services" was composed of the sub-groups, barbers, cooks, customs releasers, waiters, servants and miscellaneous occupations of similar calibre. Customs releasers, of whom seven were interviewed, is an occupation which would not have been thought of in most indexes of occupations, but constituted a significant part of our personal services sample category. Their occupation involves dealing with the customs officials as a service which relieves travellers and businessmen from the tedious procedures of customs.

Only twelve servants were found in the sample. This figure is misleading unless it is remembered that the servants are primarily women or young girls and they are not heads of families. The incidence of servants is better represented in the household composition chapter. The group accounts for over five percent of the sample.

Protective services

463 Protective services include policemen, firemen, gendarmes, guardians and soldiers. Firemen are not a significant part of the protective services, because a stone and concrete city has little call for their services. The biggest group is that of policemen and gendarmes. A surprisingly large number of soldiers were interviewed, considering the small military establishment in Lebanon. The entire category was only slightly over four percent.

Agricultural occupations and fishing

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226 Agricultural workers are sub-divided into the workers proper who do not own land and owners who work on their land. Shepherds and fishermen were also included. It is interesting to note that, for a seaboard city, more shepherds were found than fishermen, although this is probably an accident of sampling. However, fishing is less of an occupation than might be supposed since fish are in short supply near the

12: Churchill S-5 (1952) 1954 ME1 Lebanon ME1

463 226 city and are very expensive as a result. Otherwise the sample is small as might be expected in a city.

Processors of food and other agricultural products

463 The category of processing of food and agricultural products includes such sub-groups as bakers, meat cutters, and those engaged in tobacco and textile manufacturing. About three percent of the sample are in this category.

Clothing fabrication

Those who are engaged in the fabrication of finished clothing include such sub-groups as dressmakers, knitters and tailors. They represent almost five percent of the sample.

Fabricated wood and wood products

463 335 Sub-groups include carpenters, paper-manufacturing employees, and others engaged in final processing of wood products. Carpenters were included in this category rather than in the construction industry, since the use of wood is almost negligible in the construction industry. Indeed, almost nothing but doors are made of wood. The principal work of carpenters is in building furniture and cabinets. They almost invariably work out of small shops. The group includes less than three percent of the sample.

Printing

463 Less than half of one percent of the sample were engaged in the printing trade. This is probably an underestimate.

Potters and allied trades

About one percent of the sample was engaged in the making of pottery and the fabrication of other stone and clay products.

Metal working

Metal working occupations were sub-divided into blacksmiths, jewelers, machinists, and tinkers. Jewelers are primarily gold and silver craftsmen which accounts for their inclusion in

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16: Gulick E-5 (1952)1954 ME1 Lebanon ME1

in the genealogy, but there is no disagreement on their ultimate origin in the same man, often referred to as "our forefather." On the basis of the number of generations accounted for in the chart, it appears that the founder was probably born sometime late in the 16th century. Historical material is available which gives a clue to the reason for the founding of the village and at the same time supports the estimate of the date suggested by the genealogy. The reign of the Amir Fakhr al-Din II (1590–1635) is known to have been a period in which many Syrian Christians sought refuge in Lebanon to escape Turkish persecution. It is reasonable to suppose that the founder of al-Munsif, a Greek Orthodox Christian, was one of these. The probable date of the establishment of the village suggests, further, the reason for the selection of a site which is far from ideal for agricultural purposes: the better-favored areas in Lebanon had already been occupied by other groups.

Once established, what manner of village was al-Munsif? Everything that can be learned about "the old days" indicates that it must have been typical of the traditional pattern of village life in the Middle East, which in turn fits the criteria of the "folk community," as understood by sociologists in general.[1] Life in al-Munsif, then, prior to the last quarter of the 19th century when the great cultural changes began, was focused on four major themes:

1. *Devotion to the Land.* Agriculture was the economic base of the community, the occupation of all its members except for a few specialists who also were often part-time farmers.

2. *Religious orientation.* Religious attitudes permeated all aspects of life; religious behavior was integrated with economic and family behavior. The religious affiliation of the village was sharply defined.

3. *Predominance of kinship statuses* in the patterning and regulation of interpersonal affairs, for example in mutual aid arrangements. The kinship group was a focus of intense loyalty for its members, so much so that members of the same lineage were often preferred in marriage.

4. *Extreme localism* of knowledge, interests, and loyalties. This was reflected in the prevalence of inter-village feuds and in the clear preference for the marriage of an individual to a member of his or her own village rather than to an outsider. (Village endogamy.)

In the case of al-Munsif, there were a few variations on this normal structure. On the economic side, first, a certain amount of fishing has always been done right from the village itself. Second, the necessity of importing wheat has always made some money income imperative. It was therefore common for village men to do wage labor in other communities in slack seasons. Sponge diving was one such seasonal occupation, profitable but hazardous.

[1] See Afif I. Tannous, "Group Behavior in the Village Community of Lebanon," *American Journal of Sociology*, vol. 48 (1942), pp. 231–39; "The Arab Village Community of the Middle East," *Annual Report of the Smithsonian Institution 1943* (1944), pp. 524–43.